

California Postsecondary Education Commission

Improving Teacher Quality State Grants Program

Project Description

Project Title	Bell Gardens Science Partnership		
Grant Amount: \$945222	Grant Period: 10/08 - 9/12		
Grade Level: K-4	Subject Matter: Science		
Institute of Higher Education	California State University Long Beach		
Local Education Agency	Montebello Unified School District		
Additional Partners:	WestEd/K-12 Alliance		
Need for Project/ Population To Be Served:	Bell Gardens Elementary School (BGE), located in the Montebello Unified School District, is a high need school, where 25 % of families live in poverty. English Language Learners at BGE under perform their counterparts, at a comparison school in the district, by 23%-51% in English Language Arts and 10% in Mathematics, as measured on the 2007 CST. The achievement gap at BGE has elements that stem from poverty, lack of higher education among parents, and a high concentration of recent immigrants, whose dominant home language is Spanish. Teachers at BGE have had little to no professional development that mediates English Language Development, SDAIE strategies, and high quality science instruction.		
Project Goals:	The Bell Gardens Science Partnership goals are to: 1.) increase student achievement in science; 2.) increase teacher content knowledge in science and ELD pedagogy; 3.) increase English language development of students; 4.) impact teacher attitude and self-efficacy in science; 5.) improve teacher pedagogical skills by implementing the reflective TLC process as a professional learning community; and 6) strengthen parent-school-community relationships.		
Summary of Activities:	The core intervention involves all teachers at BGE in the professional development model, which includes an ELD institute (district funded), a science content institute (grant funded), an on-site extended institute, which include the Teaching Learning Collaborative, a lesson study model, community science events, and fieldwork at local science informal institutions.		
Outcomes Expected:	Gains in learning for students, teachers, and parents are anticipated outcomes of the Bell Gardens Science Partnership: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Student science achievement will be measured using appropriate TIMSS and NAEP items for students in 3rd and 4th grade, and the 5th grade science CST. • Teacher content growth will be measured using pre-post tests aligned with the content of each summer institute. • Students' English Language Development will be based on CELDT and English Language Arts CST scores, with a control group to be used for comparison. •The impact of incorporating informal science institutions on teacher content learning and attitudes will be measured using pre/post content tests and the STEBI-B instrument. •Pre/post workshop questionnaires will be used to examine teacher awareness of local community science resources. •Parent-community relationships will be investigated through parent/teacher reports, pre/post Kentucky Family and Community Involvement Guide (CPAC, 2007) and focus group interviews. 		
Teachers Served	50	Students Served	1000
Project Website: -			
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